

Appl. No.: 10/016,852
Amdt. Dated: September 9, 2004
Off. Act. Dated: October 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application follows:

1. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog providing user selected control of burning rate, comprising:

a combustible material agglomerated into a shape having top and bottom surface configured for supporting the firelog during combustion and dimensioned for use as a combustible firelog;

a flammable wrapper surrounding said combustible firelog; and

at least one combustion shield joined to said flammable wrapper adjacent said top or bottom surface to reduce the air reaching a portion of the surface of said combustible firelog;

wherein said combustion shield ~~being of~~ comprises a fireproof[[.]] or fire resistant ~~retardant~~, material;

wherein user positioning of said combustible firelog for burning with said combustion shield retained underneath said combustible firelog shields that portion of said combustible material from air to reduce the burning rate; and

wherein burning of said combustible firelog with said combustion shield retained on an upper portion of said combustible firelog allows the combustion shield to separate from the combustible firelog as said wrapper burns so that the combustion shield does not substantially impact burning rate.

2. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein said combustion shield is adapted with apertures disposed on at least portions of its surface which increase the available combustible firelog surface area in relation to a combustion shield without said apertures.

3. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1:
wherein said combustion shield is configured to allow full or partial removal at consumer's discretion to expose additional portions of said firelog prior to burning;
wherein the rate of combustion is selected by said consumer prior to igniting said firelog, in response to orientation of said firelog and the extent, if any, of discretionary combustion shield removal.

4. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 3, further comprising means for grasping attached to said combustion shield to facilitate full or partial removal of said shield.

5. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog having an adjustable combustion rate, comprising:

combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog; and
means for selectively shielding an exterior surface portion of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured to selectively change the combustion rate of said firelog by restricting the airflow reaching portions of the surface of the firelog;

wherein a user can select the amount of shielding in response to user selection of the surface area of said shielding which is retained under said firelog.

6. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 5:
wherein said means for selectively shielding said firelog comprises a combustion shield of a fire-resistant or fireproof material;
wherein said combustion shield is positioned proximal to said firelog to restrict airflow from reaching portions of the surface of the firelog to reduce the resulting combustion rate;

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wherein said selective shielding means is configured so that when it is not oriented under said firelog during combustion, the shielding means falls away as the surrounding portions of the wrapper burn away.

7. (original): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield comprises a metallic foil material.

8. (original): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 7, wherein said metallic foil is less than approximately 30 mils thick.

9. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion rate may be adjusted by positioning at least a portion of said combustion shield on the underside of said firelog.

10. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield is attached to the surface of said firelog.

11. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield is joined to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

12. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 9, wherein said combustion shield further comprising comprises means for grasping configured for allowing a user to fully or partially remove said combustion shield to alter the combustion rate.

13. (canceled).

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14. (currently amended): In a manufactured firelog having a combustible material that has been formed into a shape dimensioned for use as a combustible firelog ~~and surrounded by a flammable wrapper~~, wherein the improvement comprises:

forming said manufactured firelog as a plurality of separate complementary shapes that may be configured for arrangement in a nested combination during burning;

surrounding each complementary shape with a flammable wrapper; and

wherein the complementary shapes may be burned separately to provide one level of heat output and fire duration, or nested together in combination to provide a second level of heat output and fire duration.

Claims 15-50 (Canceled).

51. (previously presented): In a manufactured firelog formed from an agglomeration of combustible material in a shape dimensioned for use as a combustible firelog product, wherein the improvement comprises:

incorporating a combustion shield of a fire-resistant or fireproof material positioned to cover a portion of the surface of said firelog to restrict air from reaching portions of the surface of the firelog to reduce the combustion rate;

wherein said firelog is configured so that said combustion shield can be oriented under said firelog to provide a first burning rate, or oriented in other positions to provide a second burning rate which is higher than said first burning rate.

52. (previously presented): The manufactured firelog as recited in claim 51, wherein said combustion shield comprises a flexible metallic foil attached to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

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53. (previously presented): The manufactured firelog as recited in claim 52, wherein said combustion shield is configured for full or partial removal from said firelog to alter the amount of firelog surface area being covered by said combustion shielding thereby altering the resulting combustion rate.

Claims 54-56: (Canceled).

57. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein said combustion material comprises combustible materials, binding agents, and solid combustion aids.

58. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein combustion shield attached to the wrapper is configured to fall away from the firelog as the surrounding portions of the wrapper are burned away.

59. (currently amended): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 5, wherein the surface area of the shield retained under the firelog can be selected by the user in response to orienting of the firelog and shield means to select the extent, if any, that the shielding means is retained beneath the underside of the firelog, ~~and/or the area of the firelog covered by the shield means when the shield means is configured with a user-selectable size.~~

60. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 59, wherein said combustible firelog is configured so that said selective shielding means can be oriented under said firelog to provide a first burning rate, or oriented away from the underside of the firelog to provide a second burning rate which is higher than said first burning rate.

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61. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog, comprising:
a combustible material formed into a first firelog portion of a first shape; and
a combustible material formed into a second firelog portion of a second shape;
wherein said second shape is configured for being nested with said first shape;
a combustible wrapper separately covering each of said first and said second
firelogs;
whereby the nested combination of first and second firelog portions may be
burned as a single unit or separated from one another and either firelog portion burned
individually.

62. (previously presented): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 61, further
comprising means for separably adhering the wrapper of said first firelog with the
nested configuration with said second firelog.

63. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate,
comprising:
a combustible material agglomerated into a shape having top and bottom
surface configured for supporting the firelog during combustion and dimensioned for
use as a combustible firelog;
a flammable wrapper surrounding said combustible firelog;
at least one combustion shield joined to said flammable wrapper adjacent said
top or bottom surface to reduce the air reaching a portion of the surface of said
combustible firelog;
wherein said combustion shield comprises a fire proof or fire resistant material;
wherein said combustion shield is adapted with apertures disposed on at least
portions of its surface which increase the available combustible firelog surface area in
relation to a combustion shield without said apertures;

wherein user positioning of said combustible firelog for burning with said combustion shield retained underneath said combustible firelog shields that portion of said combustible material from air to reduce the burning rate; and

wherein burning of said combustible firelog with said combustion shield retained on an upper portion of said combustible firelog allows the combustion shield to separate from the combustible firelog as said wrapper burns so that the combustion shield does not substantially impact burning rate.

64. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 63, wherein said combustion shield is configured to allow full or partial removal at consumer's discretion to expose additional portions of said firelog prior to burning.

65. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 64, further comprising means for facilitating the full or partial removal of said combustion shield.

66. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate, comprising:

a combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog; and
means for selectively shielding an exterior surface portion of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured as fire-resistant or fireproof material positioned proximal to said firelog to selectively change the combustion rate of said firelog by restricting the airflow reaching portions of the surface of the firelog;

wherein a user can select the amount of shielding retained under said firelog.

67. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 66, wherein said combustion shield comprises a metallic foil material.

68. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 66, wherein said combustion shield is attached to the surface of said firelog.

69. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 66, wherein said combustion shield is joined to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

70. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 66, further comprising means for facilitating the full or partial removal of said combustion shield.

71. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate, comprising:

a combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog; and
means for selectively shielding an exterior surface portion of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured as fire-resistant or fireproof material positioned proximal to said firelog to selectively change the combustion rate of said firelog by restricting the airflow reaching portions of the surface of the firelog;

wherein a user can select the amount of shielding retained under said firelog;

wherein said selective shielding means is joined to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog and configured so that when it is not oriented under said firelog during combustion, the shielding means falls away as the surrounding portions of the wrapper burn away.

72. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 71, wherein said combustion shield comprises a metallic foil material.

73. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 71, further comprising means for facilitating the full or partial removal of said combustion shield.

74. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate, comprising:

combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog; and
means for selectively shielding an exterior surface portion of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured to selectively change the combustion rate of said firelog by restricting the airflow reaching portions of the surface of the firelog;

wherein a user can select the amount of shielding retained under said firelog in response to orienting the firelog and shield means to select the extent, if any, that the shielding means is retained beneath the underside of the firelog.

75. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 74, wherein said combustion shield comprises a metallic foil material.

76. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 74, wherein said combustion shield is attached to the surface of said firelog.

77. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 74, wherein said combustion shield is joined to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

78. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 74, further comprising means for facilitating the full or partial removal of said combustion shield.

79. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate, comprising:

combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog;

means for selectively shielding an exterior surface portion of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned;

wherein said selective shielding means is configured to selectively change the combustion rate of said firelog by restricting the airflow reaching portions of the surface of the firelog;

wherein a user can select the amount of shielding retained under said firelog;
and

wherein user selection of the orientation of said shielding means under said firelog provides a first burning rate, while orienting said shielding means away from the underside of the firelog provides a second burning rate which is higher than said first burning rate.

80. (new): The improvement as recited in claim 14, further comprising means for separably adhering the wrappers of said separate complementary shapes in their nested configuration.

81. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate, comprising:

a combustible material formed into a plurality of separate complementary shapes configured for arrangement in a nested combination during burning;

a flammable wrapper surrounding each complementary shape configured to allow nesting of the separately wrapped complementary shapes during burning; and

wherein the complementary shapes may be burned separately to provide one level of heat output and fire duration, or nested together in combination to provide another level of heat output and fire duration.

82. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 81, further comprising means for separably adhering the wrappers of said separate complementary shapes in

their nested configuration.

83. (new): A manufactured firelog having a selectable combustion rate, comprising:

a combustible material formed into a plurality of separate complementary shapes configured for arrangement in a nested combination during burning;

a flammable wrapper surrounding each complementary shape configured to allow nesting of the separately wrapped complementary shapes during burning;

wherein said plurality of separate complementary shapes comprises small and large separate firelog portions which can be arranged in a nested combination during burning;

wherein the small firelog portion can be burned separately to provide a first level of heat output and duration;

wherein the large firelog portion can be burned separately to provide a second level of heat output and duration;

wherein the small and large firelog portion can be burned simultaneously in a nested configuration to provide a third level of heat output and duration; and

wherein the small and large firelog portion can be burned simultaneously and separately, un-nested, to provide a fourth level of heat output and duration.

84. (new): A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 83, further comprising means for separably adhering the wrappers of said separate complementary shapes in their nested configuration.